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Written statement* submitted by the International Career Support Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is hereby circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[2 February 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Please recycle

Comfort women issue - United Nations was exploited by certain group of people who believed malicious cartoons and erotic novels

This is a statement to the government of the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Human Rights Council and Human Rights bodies.

The use of brothels by the military, with or without official sanction, is not new. Prostitution is still legal in some countries as it was in Japan during the WW2 until it was outlawed in 1956.

During seven year period of occupation by the United States of America following the defeat in the war (1945-1956) the camp town was set up by US request for their soldiers.

For Korea, camp town operation existed longer with the Korean war 1960-62, and until today they still exists outside United States military bases.

Additionally, in South Korea, despite the anti-prostitution law that took effect in 2004 and anti sex tourism law in 2007, prostitution and the sex trade is so huge that the government once admitted it accounts for as much as 4 percent of South Korea's annual gross domestic product - about the size of the fishing and agriculture industries combined.

What then if anything, is different about Japan's military brothels and who were so called comfort women provided sexual service to Japanese soldiers during WW2?

Essentially nothing, except for that they have been used as a political weapon against Japan. False accusations and myths abounds when it comes to Japan's military brothels. Some of them are so egregious and outrageous that they must be addressed and debunked once and for all.

The false but popular narrative in politically correct history books, movies, comic books, stories, newspaper articles, etc., claims that Japanese army forcibly recruited over 200,000 Korean women and girls into sexual slavery and most of them died due to inhumane treatment by Japanese soldiers.

Here are some key facts:

What were family members of those women doing while their daughters and sisters forcibly taken away by Japanese military?

80% of the politicians, police officers and other public servants were Korean citizen under the Japanese occupation in Korea peninsula. The comfort women issue was brought 40 years after the war. Even it wasn't brought during 14 years discussion to finalize the "Treaty on Basic Relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea" and the "Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Korea concerning the settlement of problems in regard to property and claims and economic cooperation."

First and foremost, "'comfort girl' is nothing more than a prostitute or 'professional camp follower' attached to the Japanese Army for the benefit of the soldiers" to borrow from the declassified US interrogation report of twenty Korean comfort women captured in August, 1944 in Myitkyina Burma. The same report goes on to describe their living and working conditions:

"They lived well because their food and material was not heavily rationed and they had plenty of money with which to purchase desired articles. They were able to buy clothes, shoes, cigarettes, and cosmetics to supplement the many gifts given to them by soldiers who had received "comfort bags" from home. "

Notice the use of the same word "comfort" as in "comfort bags" in above quote. "Comfort bags" is a direct translation of a Japanese word "i-an-bukuro" and its English equivalence is "care package" from home. The word reflects how the women were perceived by the soldiers-someone who gave them a few moments of solace and comfort for which their

families were also grateful. Some expressed their gratitude to the women by including feminine items like cosmetics and combs in their care packages sent to their fathers, husbands, or sons on the battle fields.

"Sex slave" clearly does not characterize the status or living condition of a comfort woman. Etsuro Totsuka, a human rights lawyer who invented and popularized the term must have done so with malice.

History shows mass rape has been used as weapons of war against the enemies. However, such savagery typically involves ethnic or religious intolerance. It is intended to debase and destroy the entire group of people. Some cultures women and children are considered war booty to be enslaved or taken advantage of. Neither case applies to Japan. In fact, slavery as an institution never existed in Japanese society in approximately 2,700 years of its history.

The army brothels or comfort stations were well regulated and rules were fairly uniform across the board. Japanese government and Army were involved in providing transportation of the workers, setting and maintaining the standards in working condition such as hours, health and hygiene requirements, and wages.

Comfort women were well compensated financially. Their monthly earning was average of 300 yen range, compared with the salaries of a private at 6-9 yen, corporal 20 yen and sergeant 23-30 yen. In one case, a woman worked for two years and three months from July 1943 to September 1945, and deposited the total of 25,442 yen in the military post office. She received 942 yen per month on average. Life as prostitute is no doubt harsh and brutal for any ordinary woman simply due to the nature of the work performed. But these women came from very poor families and took the opportunities to help their family members back home and improve their own stations in life later on.

As in any work place, a comfort woman had her days off when she could go shopping or attends social events such as picnic and "hanami" (flower viewing).

These are also clearly documented in the US Army documents in 1944 to 1945 when height of the war between United States and Japan. United States could use anything for War time propaganda if it is violating international law. However they tossed it aside because there was no value to use it as propaganda.

Cases of abduction and coercions of women and girls did occur, but they were committed by unscrupulous local Korean brokers. There are many Korean newspaper articles reporting such crimes. The police force made up of Korean police officers then under Japanese control arrested and prosecuted the criminals. There are no records however, that the Japanese military had organized abduction, and no reports of abduction committed by the Japanese military in Korea.

The UN's Coomaraswamy Report published in 1996 continued with the definition of comfort women as "sex slaves" by merely rubber stamping the previous reports and oral testimonies, not subject to cross examination or proof. It was thus based on the false narratives now widely known to have been originated in the fiction by Seiji Yoshida and spread by Japan's mainstream Asahi Newspaper. The Coomaraswamy Report is therefore effectively invalidated.

Thanks mostly to the efforts of Japanese grassroots activists together with historians and researchers who brought the sex slave myth to under the light.

United Nations was deceived by some groups of people who wanted to defame Japan and to gain money, which is a fraud of the worst kind.

The government of Japan has recently finally moved to clarify its previous statements concerning "comfort women" - with facts rather than vague, misunderstood "apologies" that it has repeatedly issued in the past.

We, the people of Japan urge the government of South Korea to honour its commitment to the Japan-South Korea Agreement of 2015. Removal of the offensive comfort women statue together with its accompanying inscription now sitting in front of the Japanese embassy in Seoul, in clear violation of the basic diplomatic rules stated in the Vienna Convention.

Additionally, 192 former comfort women who were forced into prostitution by South Korean government for United States soldiers files a law suit against South Korean government. During this court case, accuser brought the written order from South Korean government proving that South Korean government directly involved forcing their own women into sexual slavery to gain foreign currency.

During the Vietnam War, South Korean troops raped hundreds of thousands of local female children and women, consequently 5,000 to 30,000 mixed bloods children were born who were abandoned by South Korean troops and still suffering from harsh discrimination and poverty.

These are the people literally whose human rights have been seriously violated and to be recovered and compensated by South Korean government.

Japanese comfort women issue has been singled out because of passivity nature of Japanese people which became huge industry supported by South Korean government. We request United Nations Human Rights Council to urge South Korean government to stop exploiting this issue to bash Japan and urge to remove the comfort women statues and other statues for Japan bashing. Human rights of Japanese people are seriously violated by South Korean government and news media who believed what the United Nations said.

It's the time to investigate the issue again by United Nations Human Rights Council. There was absolutely no dialogue was made in the human rights body after the Coomaraswamy's report.